

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for performing a measurement in a network comprising:
creating an Internet Protocol Measurement Protocol (IPMP) packet by a
measurement host;
including in the IPMP packet instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said
instructions including an instruction to a recipient to insert any additional data desired by
the recipient in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
encapsulating the IPMP packet in an Internet Protocol (IP) datagram and a
predetermined link layer protocol.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising sending the IPMP packet
into the network from the measurement host.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the additional data includes traffic
levels.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the additional data includes
environmental data, weather data or other information that may impact communications
link performance.

6. An apparatus for performing a measurement in a network comprising:

a processor disposed in a measurement host;

a memory coupled to the processor to store computer readable instructions causing the processor to:

create an Internet Protocol Measurement Protocol (IPMP) packet;

include in the IPMP packet instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including an instruction to a recipient to insert any additional data desired by the recipient in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said computer readable instructions further cause said processor to:

encapsulate the IPMP packet in an Internet Protocol (IP) datagram and a predetermined link layer protocol.

8. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said computer readable instructions further cause said processor to send the IPMP packet into the network from the measurement host.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the additional data includes traffic levels.

10. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the additional data includes environmental data, weather data or other information that may impact communications link performance.

11. A computer readable media having encoded thereon computer readable instructions causing a processor to:
 - create an Internet Protocol Measurement Protocol (IPMP) packet;
 - include in the IPMP packet instructions for a recipient of the IPMP packet, said instructions including an instruction to a recipient to insert any additional data desired by the recipient in the IPMP packet when forwarding the IPMP packet.
12. The computer readable media according to claim 11, wherein said computer readable instructions further cause said processor to:
 - encapsulate the IPMP packet in an Internet Protocol (IP) datagram and a predetermined link layer protocol.
13. The computer readable media according to claim 12, wherein said computer readable instructions further cause said processor to send the IPMP packet into the network from the measurement host.
14. The computer readable media according to claim 11, wherein the additional data includes traffic levels.
15. The computer readable media according to claim 11, wherein the additional data includes environmental data, weather data or other information that may impact communications link performance.